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KIWIS SQUASH LANKA, SEMIS SLOT ALL BUT ASSURED AS FOURTH TEAM

With a five-wicket win in Bengaluru, New Zealand have given themselves the best chance of qualifying. Only a miracle can save Pakistan

CLINICAL CHASE AFTER BOWLERS STEP UP

With the threat of rain looming in their last match, New Zealand bowlers rose to the occasion restricting Sri Lanka to 171 in a must-win game. Trent Boult led with 3/37 spell while Mitch Santner did what he does best with a miserly 2/22. With top order firing again, New Zealand had little trouble overhauling the target in 23.2 overs

BABAR & CO. HOPE FOR MORE THAN A MIRACLE

With the win, New Zealand has ten points and a net run rate of 0.743 well ahead of Pakistan (0.036) and Afghanistan (-0.338)
Pakistan have to beat England by at least 287 runs batting first and chase down a target of 150 in 3.4 overs to have a chance of moving ahead. If NZ are in semis, they will face India in Mumbai | PTI

Five

IF THEY GO THROUGH, IT WILL BE NZ'S FIFTH CONSECUTIVE WC SEMIFINAL

SC asks HCs to set up special bench to track cases against lawmakers

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday directed high courts to set up a special bench to monitor cases against lawmakers for their speedy disposal, saying they have a direct bearing on our political democracy.

It issued a slew of directions to high courts, district judges and special courts hearing matters related to lawmakers since the pendency rates of those cases is unacceptably high. The court directed that criminal cases against members of Parliament, legislative assemblies and legislative councils be given priority and that their trials be not adjourned except for rare and compelling reasons.

As many as 5,175 cases against MPs and MLAs were pending in India as of November, 2022. Of them, 2,116 (42%) were pending

for more than five years. "These cases have a direct bearing on our political democracy. Hence, there is a compelling need to make every effort to ensure that these cases are taken up on priority and decided expeditiously, the bench said.

Each high court chief justice was directed to register a suo motu case to monitor early disposal of criminal cases against the lawmakers. The bench said multiple local factors restricted it from framing uniform guidelines for trial courts across the country. It, however, left the responsibility of speedy trial to the high courts. Special courts hearing these cases shall not adjourn them except "for rare and compelling reasons", it said. High courts can seek regular updates on the cases from the principal district and sessions judge.



EXPRESS READ

Winter session in Belagavi from Dec 4

Bengaluru: The Winter session of the state legislature will be held at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi from December 4, said Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil. Patil told reporters on Thursday that the cabinet has decided to hold the session for ten days.

Panel adopts expel-Moitra report

Resolution approved 6:4; five dissent notes submitted; Oppn MPs call it a kangaroo court

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IT was all over in two minutes. On Thursday, Vinod Kumar Sonkar, chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha, arrived for the panel's meeting on action against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the cash-for-query controversy 15 minutes late. A resolution was then read out on the adoption of the draft report recommending Moitra's expulsion from Lok Sabha citing her "highly objectionable, unethical, heinous and criminal" actions. It was adopted 6:4. Meeting over.

"No discussion. All decisions were one-sided," BSP's Danish Ali later said, who had voted against the report.

TRINAMOOL SUPPORT

Breaking its silence on charges against Moitra, Trinamool's No 2 Abhishek Banerjee stood by her asking why the panel recommended her expulsion when nothing had been proved so far | PTI



The six members who supported the resolution were BJP's Aparajita Sarangi, Rajdeep Roy, Sumedhanand Saraswati, Vinod Sonkar, Hemant Godse and suspended Congress MP Preeti Kaur. Danish Ali, Congress's V Vaithilingam, CPM's P R Natarajan, and JD(U)'s Giridhari Yadav opposed the report.

Five opposition MPs submitted dissent notes alleging that

the inquiry process was a farce and a "proverbial kangaroo court". The complaint against Moitra has "no merit, is unfounded and without a shred of evidence, and is being used to malign and defame a lady member of the Lok Sabha", said a dissent note, according to sources. The members said that "no documentary evidence" of any cash or kind in bribe, being either given or tak-

Isro's sensors pique NASA's interest

SOVI VIDYADHARAN @ TPuram

US space agency NASA has evinced interest in buying the indigenously developed high-end sensors used in Chandrayaan-3, according to K V Srimam, director of Isro's Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS).

A crucial 'correction' made by the LEOS-developed Lander

Horizontal Velocity Camera (LHVC) just 20 seconds before touchdown ensured that the Vikram lander had a soft landing on the moon's previously unexplored south pole. Srimam said at a webinar organised by the Raman International Optics Society.

"Chandrayaan-3 calls for a different dimension in terms of development of all sub-systems

including sensors, which is unique to ISRO. Now, NASA has come forward saying they are interested in some of the sensors we have used," the LEOS director said.

Srimam added that the US space agency had technically assisted ISRO in its first two moon missions but Chandrayaan-3 was purely an indigenous effort. CONTINUED ON: P5

DEATH ROW

Appeal filed in Qatar, India gets consular access

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE legal team of the eight former Indian Navy personnel, who have been sentenced to death by a Qatari court last month, has filed an appeal against the verdict, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the Indian embassy in Doha received another consular access to the detained Indians on Tuesday and that New Delhi will continue to extend legal and consular support to them.

The eight former Indian Navy personnel were given death sentence by Qatar's Court of First Instance on October 26. India described the ruling as "deeply" shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case. "As we have informed earlier, the Court of First Instance of Qatar passed a judgement on October 26 in the case involving eight Indian employees of Al Dahra company," Bagchi said. "The judgement is confidential... They are now pursuing further legal steps, and an appeal has been filed. We will also remain engaged with the Qatari authorities on this matter," he said.

EXPRESS INTAKE

Retired B'luu employee loses ₹70L in cyber fraud | P3

Veerashaiva-Lingayats reject socio-economic report | P4

First BSF jawan killed in Pak shelling across IB since '21 | P10

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